IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-5, 8, 13-14, 40-42, and 46-47 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving roaming support information by means of signaling from a subscriber terminal via an interface to a load control device being located externally to the subscriber terminal, said roaming support information being determined on the basis of access point status information determined in a plurality of access points and communication status information related to the plurality of access points;

processing, in said load control device, said roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis;

deciding, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points; and if so,

sending a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal to said another one of said plurality of access points.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said access point status information comprises an access point identification element and an access point load status indicator determined in a respective access point.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining the communication status information on the basis of a received signal strength indicator indicating the received signal strength of said plurality of access points.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining the communication status information on the basis of a carrier to interference ratio per each access point.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining the communication status information on the basis of a terminal transmit power status.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said roaming support information, obtained by processing said received access point status information and said communication status information, comprises statistics of access point related communication status and load information derived from said access point status information.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in said processing, in said load control device, said roaming support information by said access point related load based roaming analysis, comprises using of a hand-off algorithm to

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calculate load and connection quality situations for said plurality of access points on the basis of said roaming support information and to determine an optimal access point for being associated with said subscriber terminal.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising using of processing parameters in said access point related load based roaming analysis and derived from said roaming support information, wherein the processing parameters are differently weighted in said access point related load based roaming analysis.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said load control device is located in at least one of said plurality of access points.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said load control device is located in a network element separated from said plurality of access points, said network element being connected with said plurality of access points.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

receiving, in said load control device in said network element, access point internal monitoring information from said plurality of access points; determining , in said

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load control device, access points available for said subscriber terminal and selecting access point internal monitoring information of said available access points;

processing, in said load control device, said roaming support information and said selected access point internal monitoring information by an enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis;

deciding, on the basis of a result of said enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points; and if so,

sending a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said access point internal monitoring information comprises at least one of a retransmit rate to associated subscriber terminals, back-off windows, and a net allocation vector for a respective one of said plurality of access points.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising using processing parameters in said enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis which are derived from said roaming support information and said selected

access point internal monitoring information, wherein the processing parameters are differently weighted in said enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis.

14.   (Currently Amended)   A system ~~for load balancing in a wireless communication network,~~comprising:

~~said wireless communication network comprising~~

~~at least one subscriber terminal configured to establish and perform a wireless communication connection in said wireless communication network, and~~

~~a plurality of access points configured to control said wireless communication connection of said at least one subscriber terminal and to exchange information with said at least one subscriber terminal, wherein one of said plurality of access points is associated with said at least one subscriber terminal,~~

~~said system comprising:~~

an access point load status monitoring unit located in each one of ~~said~~ a_plurality of access points and configured to measure a traffic load of an access point and to transmit access point status information;

a roaming support unit located in ~~said~~ a_subscriber terminal and configured to receive said access point status information from said plurality of access points, to determine communication status information related to said plurality of access points, to process said received access point status information and said communication status

information in order to obtain roaming support information and to transmit said roaming support information; and

a load control device located externally to said subscriber terminal, said load control device being configured to receive said roaming support information by signaling via an interface from said subscriber terminal, to process said roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis, to decide, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points, and to send a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in ~~said~~ a_wireless communication network, said wireless communication network comprising:

said subscriber terminal configured to establish and perform a wireless communication connection in said wireless communication network, and

said plurality of access points configured to control said wireless communication connection of said subscriber terminal and to exchange information with said subscriber terminal, wherein one of said plurality of access points is associated with said subscriber terminal.

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15. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said access point status information comprises an access point identification element and an access point load status indicator determined in a respective access point.

16. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said roaming support unit is configured to determine a received signal strength indicator indicating the received signal strength of said plurality of access points.

17. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said roaming support unit is configured to determine a carrier to interference ratio per each access point.

18. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said roaming support unit is configured to determine a terminal transmit power status.

19. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said roaming support information obtained in and transmitted from said roaming support unit comprises statistics of access point related communication status and load information derived from said received access point status information.

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20. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said load control device is configured to process said roaming support information in said access point related load based roaming analysis by using a hand-off algorithm to calculate load and connection quality situations for said plurality of access points on the basis of said roaming support information and to determine an optimal access point for being associated with said subscriber terminal.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said load control device is configured to differently weight processing parameters used in said access point related load based roaming analysis and derived from said roaming support information.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said load control device is located in at least one of said plurality of access points.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, wherein said load control device is located in a network element separated from said plurality of access points, said network element being connected with said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network.

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24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, said system further comprising:

an access point internal monitoring unit located in each one of said plurality of access points and configured to determine access point internal monitoring information and to transmit said access point internal monitoring information to said load control device,

wherein said load control device is configured to determine, from said access point internal monitoring information, access points available for said subscriber terminal and to select access point internal monitoring information of said available access points, to process said roaming support information and said selected access point internal monitoring information by an enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis, to decide, on the basis of a result of said enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points, and to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 24, wherein said access point internal monitoring information comprises at least one of a retransmit rate to associated subscriber terminals, back-off windows, and a net allocation vector for a respective one of said plurality of access points.

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26. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 24, wherein said load control device is configured to differently weight processing parameters used in said enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis and derived from said roaming support information and said selected access point internal monitoring information.

27. (Previously Presented) A load control device configured to:

receive roaming support information by means of signaling from a subscriber terminal via an interface, said roaming supporting information being determined on the basis of access point status information of a plurality of access points;

process the roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis;

decide, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points; and

send a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network,

wherein the load control device is located externally to said subscriber terminal.

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28. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said access point status information comprises an access point identification element and an access point load status indicator determined in a respective access point.

29. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said roaming support information comprises at least a received signal strength indicator indicating the received signal strength of said plurality of access points.

30. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said roaming support information comprises at least a carrier to interference ratio per each access point.

31. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said roaming support information comprises at least a terminal transmit power status.

32. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said roaming support information comprises statistics of access point related communication status and load information derived from said access point status information.

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33. (Previously Presented)   The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said load control device is configured to process said roaming support information in said access point related load based roaming analysis by using a hand-off algorithm to calculate load and connection quality situations for said plurality of access points on the basis of said roaming support information and to determine an optimal access point for being associated with said subscriber terminal.

34. (Previously Presented)   The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said load control device is configured to differently weight processing parameters used in said access point related load based roaming analysis and derived from said roaming support information.

35. (Previously Presented)   The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said load control device is located in at least one of said plurality of access points.

36. (Previously Presented)   The load control device according to claim 27, wherein said load control device is located in a network element separated from said plurality of access points, said network element being connected with said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network.

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37. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 36,

wherein said load control device is configured to receive access point internal monitoring information of said plurality of access points, to determine, from said access point internal monitoring information, access points available for said subscriber terminal and to select access point internal monitoring information of said available access points, to process said roaming support information and said selected access point internal monitoring information by an enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis, to decide, on the basis of a result of said enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points, and to send a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network.

38. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 37, wherein said access point internal monitoring information comprises at least one of a retransmit rate to associated subscriber terminals, back-off windows, and a net allocation vector for a respective one of said plurality of access points.

39. (Previously Presented) The load control device according to claim 37, wherein said load control device is configured to differently weight processing

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parameters used in said enhanced access point related load based roaming analysis and derived from said roaming support information and said selected access point internal monitoring information.

40. (Currently Amended) An access point ~~usable in a wireless communication network being configured to control a wireless communication connection of at least one subscriber terminal and to exchange information with said at least one subscriber terminal,~~ comprising:

~~wherein said access point comprises:~~

an access point load status monitoring ~~means~~ unit configured to measure a traffic load of an access point and to transmit access point status information, and

a load control device ~~according to claim 27.~~ configured to

receive roaming support information by means of signaling from a subscriber terminal via an interface, said roaming supporting information being determined on the basis of access point status information of a plurality of access points,

process the roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis,

decide, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points, and

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send a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network;

wherein the load control device is located externally to said subscriber terminal; and

wherein said access point is usable in a wireless communication network being configured to control a wireless communication connection of said subscriber terminal and to exchange information with said subscriber terminal.

41.   (Currently Amended)   A network element ~~usable   in   a   wireless communication network,~~ comprising:

~~wherein said network element is separated from and connected to said plurality of access points and comprises~~ a load control device ~~according to claim 27.~~ configured to

receive roaming support information by means of signaling from a subscriber terminal via an interface, said roaming supporting information being determined on the basis of access point status information of a plurality of access points,

process the roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis,

decide, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points, and

send a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network,

wherein the load control device is located externally to said subscriber terminal, and

wherein said network element is separated from and connected to said plurality of access points.

42.   (Currently Amended) A subscriber terminal usable in a wireless communication network,

said subscriber terminal comprising:

a roaming support means unit configured to receive access point status information from a plurality of access points, to determine communication status information related to said plurality of access points, to process said received access point status information and said communication status information in order to obtain roaming support information, and to transmit said roaming support information to a load control device according to claim 27, configured to

receive roaming support information by means of signaling from a subscriber terminal via an interface, said roaming supporting information being determined on the basis of access point status information of a plurality of access points,

process the roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis,

decide, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points, and

send a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network;

wherein the load control device is located externally to said subscriber terminal,

wherein said subscriber terminal performs, in response to an instruction from a serving access point triggered by said load control device, roaming from said associated one to another one of said plurality of access points in said a wireless communication network, said another one of said plurality of access points is indicated in said instruction from said load control device.

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43. (Previously Presented) A computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium, the computer program product being configured to execute a method comprising:

receiving roaming support information by means of signaling from a subscriber terminal via an interface to a load control device being located externally to the subscriber terminal, said roaming support information being determined on the basis of access point status information determined in a plurality of access points and communication status information related to the plurality of access points;

processing, in said load control device, said roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis;

deciding, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points; and if so,

sending a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal to said another one of said plurality of access points.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to claim 43, wherein said computer program product comprises a medium readable by said data processing apparatus, on which said software code portions are stored.

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45. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to claim 43, wherein said computer program product is directly loadable into an internal memory of said data processing apparatus.

46. (Currently Amended) A computer program product according to claim 43, being usable for a data processing apparatus, said data process apparatus comprises:

a system for load balancing in a wireless communication network,

wherein said wireless communication network ~~comprising~~comprises:

at least one subscriber terminal configured to establish and perform a wireless communication connection in said wireless communication network~~,~~; and

a plurality of access points configured to control said wireless communication connection of said at least one subscriber terminal and to exchange information with said at least one subscriber terminal, wherein one of said plurality of access points is associated with said at least one subscriber terminal,

wherein said system ~~comprising~~comprises~~:~~

an access point load status monitoring ~~means~~unit located in each one of said plurality of access points and configured to measure a traffic load of an access point and to transmit access point status information~~,~~;

a roaming support ~~means~~unit located in said subscriber terminal and configured to receive said access point status information from said plurality of

access points, to determine communication status information related to said plurality of access points, to process said received access point status information and said communication status information in order to obtain roaming support information , and to transmit said roaming support information~;~ and

a load control device located externally to said subscriber terminal, said load control device being configured to receive said roaming support information by means ~for~ of signaling via an interface from the subscriber terminal to process said roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis, to decide, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points, and to send with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in said wireless communication network.

47. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a receiver configured to receive, from a subscriber terminal, roaming support information by means of signaling via an interface, said roaming support information being determined on the basis of access point status information of a plurality of access points;

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a processor configured to process the roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis and to decide, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points; and,

a ~~sending~~ sender configured to send a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in a wireless communications network,

wherein the load control device is located externally to said subscriber terminal.

48. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

receiving means for receiving, from a subscriber terminal, roaming support information by means of signaling via an interface, said roaming support information being determined on the basis of access point status information of a plurality of access points;

processing means for processing the roaming support information by an access point related load based roaming analysis;

deciding means for deciding, on the basis of a result of said access point related load based roaming analysis, whether said subscriber terminal is to be associated with another one of said plurality of access points; and,

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sending means for sending a command to a serving access point associated with said subscriber terminal, said command instructing the serving access point to initialize roaming of said subscriber terminal from said associated one to said another one of said plurality of access points in a wireless communications network,

wherein the load control device is located externally to said subscriber terminal.